Bengal and the treatment success rate had been 86%. The treatment success rate in case of West Midnapore had been 85%.

Increasing of MPLAD Fund

1026. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry are considering the proposal in increase the amount of rupees two crores under MPLAD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The budgetary provision under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme for the current financial year (2004-05) is at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per MP.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I wish to submit that for the election of the Deputy Chairman, I have been in consultations with my colleagues in the National Democratic Alliance as also others. I do not wish to go into all the reasoning and persuasion that have prompted our valued colleagues take the step that we had. Nevertheless, it is our collective and considered view that when a new beginning in the management of the House or in the stewardship of the House is to be made, then it would be advisable, preferable indeed, that the new beginning was unopposed. Accordingly, I had requested my colleagues, particularly of Shiv Sena, and the candidate who wanted to contest for very good reasons, to withdraw. I had also then requested the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to share our request and he had very kindly and graciously consented to be with us in a meeting and, upon our joint request, we had decided that the election of the Deputy Chairman to the Rajya Sabha be unopposed. And, I accordingly, request the House to elect Shri Rahman Khan as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha unopposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are thirteen Motions for the election of the Deputy Chairman. The Members who have given notices may now move them one-by-one and in each case the Motion has to be seconded by the Seconder thereof.

श्री संजय निरुपम (महाराष्ट्र): आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, पूरी दुनिया में जनतंत्र विभिन्न राजनैतिक विचारों के बीच चलता है लेकिन देश, सरकार और सदन इन तमाम मतभेदों, विवादों और विरोधों के बावजूद आम सहमति से चलाने की कोशिश होती है। उपसभापति पद का चुनाव आम सहमति से हो, ऐसी इच्छा सरकार की थी। संभवतया यह इच्छा नेता विपक्ष तक पहुंचाई भी गयी थी लेकिन यह जानकारी हमारे पास नहीं थी। मैं यह कह सकता हूं कि हमें विश्वास में भी नहीं लिया गया और हमारी राय भी नहीं ली गयी। इसलिए हमारा एक प्रतीकात्मक विरोध था और इस विरोध स्वरूप हम इस चुनाव में उतरे। मगर आज सुबह, मुझे बड़ी खुशी हुई कि संसदीय कार्य मंत्री श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी ने सरकार की तरफ से हमें अनुरोध किया, सहमति की अपेक्षा जाहिर की। साथ-साथ नेता विपक्ष ने भी सहमति पैदा करने की इच्छा जाहिर की। मैंने सरकार और विपक्ष दोनों का प्रस्ताव अपनी पार्टी शिवसेना के प्रमुख, माननीय श्री बालासाहेब ठाकरे जी तक पहुंचाया मुझे बड़ी खुशी हो रही है, और बड़ी खुशी के साथ मैं घोषणा कर रहा हूं कि शिवसेना प्रमुख ने सरकार और नेता प्रतिपक्ष के अनुरोध को स्वीकार करते हुए कि उपसभापति पद का चुनाव आम सहमति से हो, ऐसा निर्णय दिया है। उसी निर्णय के आधार पर मैंने उपसभापति पद के लिए श्री एकनाथ के० ठाकुर का जो मोशन दिया था, उस मोशन को मैं मूव नहीं कर रहा हूं और श्री के० रहमान खान का चुनाव आम सहमति से हो, निर्विरोध हो, ऐसी इच्छा जाहिर करता हूं।

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

"That Shri K. Rahman Khan be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Sir, I second the Motion.

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी (बिहार): माननीय सभापति जी, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि:-

"श्री के० रहमान खान को राज्य सभा का उपसभापति चुना जाए।"

डा० कुमकुम राय (बिहार): सभापति जी, मैं प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करती हूं।

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I move:

"That Shri K. Rahman Khan be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Maharashtra): Sir, I move.

"That Shri K. Rahman Khan be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI ROBERT KHARSHING (Meghalaya): Sir, I move:

"That Shri K. Rahman Khan be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

श्री टी.एस.बाजवा (जम्मू और कश्मीर): सभापति महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूं।

कुमारी मायावती (उत्तर प्रदेश): मान्यवर, मैं प्रस्ताव करती हूं कि:-

"श्री के.रहमान खान को राज्य सभा का उपसभापति चुना जाए।"

श्री गांधी आजाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति जी, मैं प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूं।

श्री दारा सिंह चौहान (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति जी, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि:-

"श्री के.रहमान खान को राज्य सभा का उपसभापति चुना जाए।"

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I second the Motion.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, I move:

"That Shri K. Rahman Khan be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Maharashtra): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I move:

"That Shri K. Rahman Khan be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRI RAJU PARMAR (Gujarat): I second the Motion.

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति जी, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि:-

"श्री के. रहमान खान को राज्य सभा का उपसभापति चुना जाए।"

श्री अबू आसिम आजमी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूं।

†(ابو عاصم اعظمی "اتر پردیش": مہودے، میں اس پرستاؤ کا سمرتھن کرتا ہوں۔)

श्री अवनि राय (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सभापति जी, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि:-

"श्री के. रहमान खान को राज्य सभा का उपसभापति चुना जाए।"

SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I move:

"That Shri K. Rahman Khan be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सभापति महोदय, मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करती हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall, now, put the Motion, moved by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and duly seconded by Shri Suresh Pachouri, to vote. The question is:

"That Shri K. Rahman Khan be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare that Shri K. Rahman Khan has been chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Shri K. Rahman Khan may, now, be conducted to his seat by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is with a sense of pleasure and satisfaction that I greet our dear colleague, who up till a few minutes back was sitting across the Well of the House. I greet him, Sir, because not only does he sit on this side of this House now, but also because he sits as my companion in the same seat. We share the same seat, but I know that in the discharge of the functions of the Deputy Chairman, hon. K. Rahman Khan, would

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.